Chairman’s Message

At a time when the welfare of children is again in the news, it is a fitting occasion to pay tribute to the hard work and diligence put in by our Child Welfare Officer, Steve Farrell. Ably assisted by Matt Brown and Chris Lyons, our Club Secretaries, Steve works tirelessly to ensure that anyone involved in managing, coaching, refereeing or in any way assisting with the guidance and organisation of our young members is duly cleared and certified in accordance with the Child Protection Regulations. This also includes the updating of First Aid certification, following the attendance of managers and coaches on courses. It is an onerous task for Steve as everyone’s certification runs for individual timescales and this work involves use of a website which can, at times, be less than user-friendly. We all owe a huge vote of thanks to him for his admirable work.

Only recently, a substantial number of our managers and coaches attended a First Aid refresher and this, together with our on-site defibrillator, demonstrates our commitment to the health of our members. As far as I am aware, we were the first Club in either the Tandridge or Crowborough Leagues to install a defibrillator.

Only a few years ago, we were in danger of being a Club in organisational name only. We had different age groups playing over five or six grounds at the weekend and only perhaps getting together on occasions such as Presentation Day. I had always had a dream to try and bring teams back together to engender more of a Club spirit and that is what we have done at weekends, bringing various age groups together at Bushey for training and games such that they could mix and feel more part of the Club. The refurbishment of the Clubhouse and running of the coffee shop have also played a huge part in this.

This however creates huge pressure on pitches, use of which can be weather dependent. Although we have spent a substantial amount of money over the years and at the beginning of this season in particular, attempting to reduce the effects of weather by improving drainage, we still have to be conscious that one weekend of pitch misuse can result in a long term problem.

We are extremely fortunate to have the services of Jon Heyburn who tends, nurtures and cuts and marks our pitches. If pitches are played on when it is not suitable weather, it can make his job extremely difficult and also affect the ability of other sides to play, sometimes for weeks.

We have therefore taken the decision that Jon, as our groundsman, will be in sole charge of making the decision as to whether or not the pitch should be played on, taking into account the state of the pitch and the weather forecast. At times we are aware that this may lead to the odd game being called off when it might have been able to have been played, but overall we feel that protection of Bushey Croft and our investment in the pitches has to be considered for the benefit of all. I am sure everyone will understand.

David Parish
Club Chairman
Oxted & District Junior Football Club continue to have a very successful season. Membership at the club is at its highest level for many years and the club’s vision is to continue to grow and develop ever further over future seasons.

We have extended our partnership with St Mary’s School, now utilising their Multi Use Training Area for mid-week training sessions under floodlights and works are already ongoing to identify other available pitches in the local area that can allow the football club to continue with its ambition.

With pitch space at Bushey Croft at a premium, the football club have recently introduced Jon Heyburn as the official groundsman. Jon will make decisions each week as to whether pitches are playable or not. This is a new process for the football club and was implemented to keep the standards of the pitches at Bushey to the highest standard possible. At the start of the season the club made a significant financial investment into ground works and this investment has already paid dividends, as postponed matches are down on previous years. Hopefully the weather will continue to be kind to us, however I would ask that everyone is understanding should a game get called off.

Many teams at the club continue to have very successful seasons with lots of the older age groups competing towards the top of their respective league divisions. I’m sure you’ll join me in wishing all these teams good luck as the look to complete their remaining fixtures. Younger age groups continue to complete their non-competitive fixtures and results have been really positive. All the younger age groups are working hard in training each week and as a result are playing some wonderful football on match days.

I have the pleasure in announcing that the football club is funding three coaches/managers to undertake the FA Level 2 coaching qualification. We are very fortunate to have coaches willing to volunteer for this additional training, as not only is the course intense in nature, it requires a significant commitment by those undertaking, in their own time and often requires time off from their day jobs. Dave French, Gary Prince and Ronan Cleary will complete the qualification over the next six months and we hope will be in a position to share their new-found expertise with other coaches/managers at the football club. Good luck gents.

It’s lovely to see so many of the children proudly wearing their new rain jackets. All the kids look extremely smart and the feedback to date has been extremely positive. This was a new introduction this season and whilst subscription prices increased slightly, the football club subsidised their purchase and personalisation. As a club we will look to repeat this process next year, whereby managers will be given the option of choosing an alternative item of clothing from the same range.

Finally, all teams at the football club have been given the opportunity to enter an end of season tournament. This is often a great way to end the year’s football and they are normally very well organised and a wonderful family day out. Please speak to your age groups manager/coaches if you have any enquiries and good luck to all those that have entered teams.

Matt Brown
Co Secretary
A look to the Seniors

Exciting times are ahead for Oxted and District FC, both on and off the pitch.

On the pitch, a number of ex-Oxted JFC players have been making their mark within the senior club. While the 3rd Team have had an up and down season so far, they have been spearheaded by the excellent form of ex-JFC player Jake Chute. Jake’s goalscoring form from central midfield have been vital in ensuring the 3rd team remain competitive in the league. Another of the club’s feeder teams, Raw Skills, has had their excellent youth development record rewarded with four players from their u16 team featuring in the 3rd team this season. The lads have taken to senior football with ease (not an easy task!) and have looked at home when called upon and the third team is proving a successful development team for player progression.

The 2nd team have had a similarly up and down year after promotion. Better mid-season form has ensured they stay competitive while developing the young players being fed through the club. Harry Pickford (former Oxted JFC), has seen his excellent early-season form result in a call up to the 1st team, where he has put in a number of excellent performances.

The 1st team have been in excellent recent form (WLWLVW), resulting in the team becoming outsiders for promotion and making strides towards their target of reaching the next tier of the FA structure.

With the current pavilion at the club’s home ground, Master Park, considered unfit for purpose, discussions have been ongoing for some time regarding the development of a new pavilion. Both the football club and the cricket club who share the ground have been key in developing the plans for the new building. Further updates will be shared as the plans develop.

Any JFC players who are interesting in training or playing with the senior side can contact Jon as football development officer or Gary as senior third team manager (both can be found regularly coaching the Acorns on a Saturday morning) to talk about their route into adult football. (Players must be 16 to play in senior games, but can train before their 16th birthday).

A final thank you must go to our fantastic group of parents who are great support throughout the sessions and always ensure the goals and equipment are always put away at the end, which is much appreciated!

Chris Heyburn
Acorns Coordinator
Under 8s

It has been a slow couple of months for the Under 8s, with the league winter break and then our first fixture being cancelled due to the good old English weather misbehaving!

We have been making good use of our training sessions and concentrating on passing, control and movement. We have seen some great improvements all round from all of the boys.

We are all looking forward to putting these skills into practice as we now have a run of consecutive games from 23rd February. We are also looking forward to sporting our new club jackets,

Simon George
Under 8s Manager

Under 9s

Following a long break from matches and a concentration in training to practice the basics of passing, dribbling and shooting over the winter months, with the benefit of the MUGA at St Mary’s, we have started to shift the focus in training to small sided games in an attempt to bring these elements into practice.

We want the players to get more touches of the ball in a smaller area which should improve their ability greatly, and when the games occur on the larger match day pitches mean they find themselves with more time on the ball than they are used to. The small sided games also mean that there is a lot of action in a short time, so more passes, tackles, runs and shots, which is what the players want and need.

We will continue to spend time talking and walking through shape to ensure players understand all positions and have the know how to use their skills in the right area of the pitch, but the real driver is playing as much football as possible each weekend. The players have so much energy to use and such a desire for games that it would be a shame to not take advantage of it!

We have a string of matches coming up and with the weather improving as spring comes we hope to get the players involved with games and races and more competition, which they all seem to enjoy more. We are going to focus on fun as the main driver for success in the coming weeks. We might even work on some goal celebrations.

Matt Edwards
Under 9s Manager
Under 10s

As we said goodbye to 2018, the Missiles and the Rockets had won 6 games and drew 6 between them. Heading into the New Year means a re-jig by the league, and we are seeded alongside teams with similar results to us. The games should be closer and more competitive and that was reflected in our latest results - two tight wins and two draws against strong teams from Sevenoaks. The boys are really starting to bring what we are doing in training into the games and some of the football has been really excellent.

Training is going well, including the use of St. Mary's school MUGA in addition to Bushey Croft. We asked for your views on using the MUGA for midweek training ahead of matches. We now have your feedback and will aim to keep as many of you happy as possible. Next season we have games each weekend and training is midweek so this is good preparation.

As we mentioned before, we are already planning for next season. We've started to discuss with the boys what we're looking for from them until the end of the season. They all need to work on the concentration part, particularly in training (!) but another thing we try to promote is the right attitude. It's clear that the boys are playing games in the right spirit, especially when compared to some individuals we have played against! Both teams have had matches where they are ahead and held on well to win, or more impressively been behind but come back to draw or even nick a winner! Pressing for a result until the final whistle shows great determination, resilience, and the sort of attitude we are looking for.

Finally a quick note to let you know how much we appreciate the support of the parents at matches, especially your help with setting up and taking down - the help is invaluable so thank you.

Dave Brown
Under 10s Manager

Under 11s - United

Following a promising autumn of development matches which saw Oxted United put together an unbeaten run of 6 games playing free flowing, passing football the team found themselves in Division C for the Winter Trophy tournament.

Despite facing stronger opposition the boys maintained the high standard of performance and team spirit seen throughout their earlier matches and extended the winning run still further winning their first 4 trophy games scoring 21 goals along the way. This included an excellent 2-1 away win against Pembury Panthers at the beginning of January which, in my opinion, has proved to be the toughest challenge of our season so far due to strong opposition, a difficult pitch and a number of players missing.

And so we entered the final round of fixtures knowing a win against Forest Row would see the boys claim the Division C trophy. After a slow start which saw United completely out passed by the home team we scored, completely against the run of play, the first goal of the game which opened the flood-gates and saw the boys grab a further 8 unanswered goals and secure the trophy in style.

United are a talented group of lads who are developing week by week and can play attractive attacking football. Promotion into the B Division for the Spring trophy has followed our winter success and if the boys maintain their self-belief and continue to work hard further success is within their grasp.

#Come On You Oxted

Chris Lyons
Under 11 'United' Coach
Under 11s - Rovers

After a tough start to the season, Oxted Rovers finished their winter fixtures with a flourish, wiping aside their opposition in the final group games of their winter trophy tournament. Scoring 13 goals and just conceding 3. This represents a massive turnaround from the start of the season - every member of the Rovers squad has contributed and deserves huge credit. The boys have grown in confidence, listened, learnt and developed together. They have shown amazing team spirit and played some nice football along the way.

Sadly the winning streak wasn’t enough to claim the trophy but it has given us coaches, their very supportive parents and most importantly the lads themselves a much needed lift and boost in confidence. We have ability in this side and importantly the boys are starting to believe in themselves. A really strong finish to the winter months means we enter the Spring competition full of excitement. #COYO

Dave French
Under 11 'Rovers'
Coach

Under 12s - Eagles

The Eagles have found it tough going since our last update with only 3 wins and 8 losses. Consequently the team are focussing more on rebuilding rather than results, working hard in training and trying the boys in new positions.

We have been working principally on teamwork to try to get the boys moving forward as a team rather than relying on solo efforts. We still have a way to go but are starting to see more passing from some of the boys but are still giving the ball away too easily and lacking composure in front of goal.

We were sad to see Michael Copland-Wynen leave the team but encouraged to have one new joiner in Max Hinton so we maintain a squad of 14. It is encouraging to see that Man of the Match has been shared amongst most of the boys and it is teamwork and effort that are rewarded most.

Some of the play recently has been encouraging but results have still been going against us. I was disappointed to see us recently lose to Pembury, who we have beaten twice this season, in a game where we outplayed them for most of the game but were failing to find the net. We are currently 7th in the table with the next two games being against the team one place above and one place below us. So a real chance to move up if we apply ourselves well.

Steve Farrell
Under 12 'Eagles'
Manager

Under 12s - Hawks

The Under 12s Hawks season has stuttered recently due to the continued bad weather, we have only managed to play two league matches in the past two months.

We have supplemented these with a couple of friendlies on spare weekends when the pitches could handle it and continued to work hard in training to advance the boys development. The team has done well and is just about where they should be.

I will be able to update fully on the season and the progress once we have completed our league fixtures in the next newsletter.

On reflection of the season, I asked one of the boys why he comes to play football at Oxted, as this is very important to us. You can see their comments to the left.

Once our remaining league matches have finished I will contact everyone with our plans for next season but before that we have arranged a day out for the team at Crawley Town FC to be Player Escorts and Flag Bearers. I’m hoping we can get as many of team there as possible for what should be a great day out, keep a lookout on your emails for the full details.

Gary Prince
Under 12 'Hawks'
Manager

“I play for Oxted Hawks because it is fun. I get to play football with my friends and I go to improve and get better at football. It has been a good season going from the C League to the A League and a lot of the games have been very challenging”.

U12 Hawks Player
The Under 13s have had a good season so far, with only Bromley Rooks and Carpe Diem sitting above us in the Tandridge B league. We have lost the odd game, but this was to be expected and the boys have started to adapt and make adjustments during games.

As expected, the standard is higher this season and that brings us some training challenges — every position has work to do, nobody can rest on their laurels.

Derek Humphries is settling in well to permanent goalkeeping duties, making some key saves and he will improve with more games behind our defenders. The defence being stretched more, with organisation and communication becoming of increasing importance. We have moved team captain Thomas Poole in to the back line and with his reliability and in various combinations, we have excellent backline options.

Squeezing up the pitch is a key theme, as a weakness has tended to be leaving a large space in front of defence. We utilise Leo Kilfiger in front of the defenders and new player Ajdar can play a similar roll and holds the ball up well — both players are excellent interceptors of possession. Unsurprisingly, Alex continues to be a constant threat going forwards and he sets a high bar for his team mates, which we hope only spurs them on – if we can just improve our variation in attack, we will dominate more games. Joe, Oliver Adams and Tom Thorpe have been adding to the score lines and although Jack Jordan broke his collar bone against South Bank before Christmas, he scored on his return to the squad. In combination with Oliver, Cameron Wragg and the return of Asher Higham, we have plenty of options to push on.

With our new players, there’s plenty of competition and I’m really pleased this season is more technically difficult, the boys really needed it and it will help them all improve.

Paul Marks
Under 13s Manager

This is the first season we have offered personalised jackets to every player member of the club. These have proved popular at all age groups! It has been fantastic to see so many young football players wearing the same club branded tracksuit at Bushey Croft. Having also kitted out our coaching staff too, Bushey Croft is an impressive place to be at the moment!
Under 14s

The Under 14s have continued to build on their positive start to the season. The boys are playing some of the best football I’ve ever seen and thoroughly deserve their current position at the top of the Division A table.

Crowborough League A division continues to be an extremely competitive league and it’s credit to all the boys for all their hard work and commitment in training each week that often transfers into match performances. The boys as a group continue to develop and many of them have shown great versatility by playing in different positions this season. This has allowed us to adjust our formation and the boys are certainly enjoying playing our attacking style of football.

In December we were unfortunately dumped out of the League Cup, in what can only be described as a controversial match! In previous years this type of setback normally takes them a few weeks to recover from. This season they are all showing great levels of maturity and recovered from their disappointment quickly, winning their next seven matches in succession.

In Adam Swan and Kieran Barrett we have the two highest scorers in the league. A friendly rivalry is growing between the pair and at the time of writing both the boys are on 19 goals each! Although goal scorers often get the headlines, credit must also go to the entire squad, as each and every one of the boys plays their part. We are much more physical this year and it’s also great to see all the boys so comfortable on the ball. Our passing play this season has been a joy to watch.

Although some of our rivals have a game in hand on us, we currently have 5 league games remaining and are 10 points clear at the top of the table! Still no time for complacency and if the boys continue with their hard work the League title is now within our grasp.

Matt Brown
Under 14s Manager

Under 16s

The Under 16s continue to have a great season and find themselves very much in the shake up for Division honours.

They have played 9 games in the league and, after losing their first fixture to Hamsey Rangers, have now won 8 straight matches to leave them 1 point from top with a game in hand. Most of these victories have been hard fought with the team continually retrieving victories from losing positions. One such performance came against Bromleigh Blues when the boys showed their spirit and determination to come back from 2 - 0 down with 15 minutes to go to win 4 - 2. Another noteworthy performance came away at previously undefeated Beckenham Reds outplaying their UEFA B coached opponents 5 - 0, despite missing several key members of the squad.

With the boys having their GCSEs coming up shortly, as coaches we’ve taken the unusual decision to stop midweek training, hopefully allowing the boys more time to recover from their disappointment quickly, winning their next seven matches in succession. The boys continue to work hard and it’s hoped that over the next month or so can claim a much deserved title.

At the start of preseason we had a squad of 10 boys and it looked very much like it would be the team’s last season together. With 18 boys signed up, the hope is that the team can continue to represent the Club for another season at least.

On a personal note I would like to once again thank Colin and Chris for all their time and support and also all the other parents for their commitment and help in what has been a very difficult season so far for me on a personal level.

Graham Timson
Under 16s Manager
Focus on a Sponsor

Databarracks are now in their second season as one of our sponsors. They are a company who were founded in 2003 by Tom – dad of Barney in the Under 10s – and two colleagues. They offer award-winning business continuity services. Here’s what they say about themselves:

Databarracks helps your business continue when the worst happens. A good IT resilience solution does more than just protect technology – it lets your people, processes and assets get on with what they do best. The problem is, running an organisation’s IT is hard. You have to balance the business-need for innovation and transformation while wrestling with the complex web of IT needed to keep it running.

At Databarracks, we love wrestling with the complex web of IT. We’ve been doing it for a long time. You can get on with adding value while we make sure that, if the lights go out, we’re on hand to fix the problem, 24/7/365.

Databarracks have sponsored the Under 10 teams since they formed two years ago.

There are lots of other companies who can back up and restore data. The reason our customers use us is the service we provide. No matter the time of day, your IT doesn’t leave our sight. So you can get on with running your business knowing if disaster strikes, it won’t be world ending.

This is what we do to help our clients.

Business Continuity as a Service - the operational processes to keep your business in business.

Backup as a Service - individual file recovery and long term data retention for governance, risk & compliance.

Disaster Recovery as a Service - rapid server recovery from major IT incidents

Public Cloud Services - designing, building, migrating and 24/7 management to get the best from AWS, Azure and Google Compute Platform.

Email Continuity - keep everyone communicating, no matter the crisis.

Dave Brown
Under 10s Manager

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Tournament Dates

With the club subsidising some tournament football for all teams, the first of our end of season tournament dates have now been confirmed.

**Sunday 19th May**
Pembury Tournament
Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s

**Saturday 22nd June**
Paddock Wood Tournament
Under 8s, Under 9s

**Sunday 23rd June**
Paddock Wood Tournament
Under 6, Under 7, Under 12 Eagles

**Saturday 6th June**
Jarvis Brook Tournament
Under 7, Under 9

**Sunday 7th June**
Jarvis Brook Tournament
Under 12 Eagles

See Pitchero Match section for up to date tournament entries.

These tournaments limit squad sizes, so whole squads may not be taking part. Speak to individual team managers for details.
Spot the Ball!

Can you tell which ball the Under 8s were battling for from a throw in in training recently?

See below for the answer!

Oxted & District Junior Football Club

Oxted & District JFC provides junior football for the local community from age 5. Our highly successful Acorns section caters for our youngest players, with five to seven year olds experiencing friendly football in a safe and fun environment.

An FA Charter Standard Development Club, our home ground is Bushey Croft Recreation Ground in Old Oxted, which provides a hub for all of our teams from Acorns to Under 16s, with most teams training and playing there.

On our website you will find fixtures, results and news for all our teams, along with club contact information. Each team has its own team page, which are listed under the ‘Teams’ tab on the menu bar.

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From Little Acorns...